

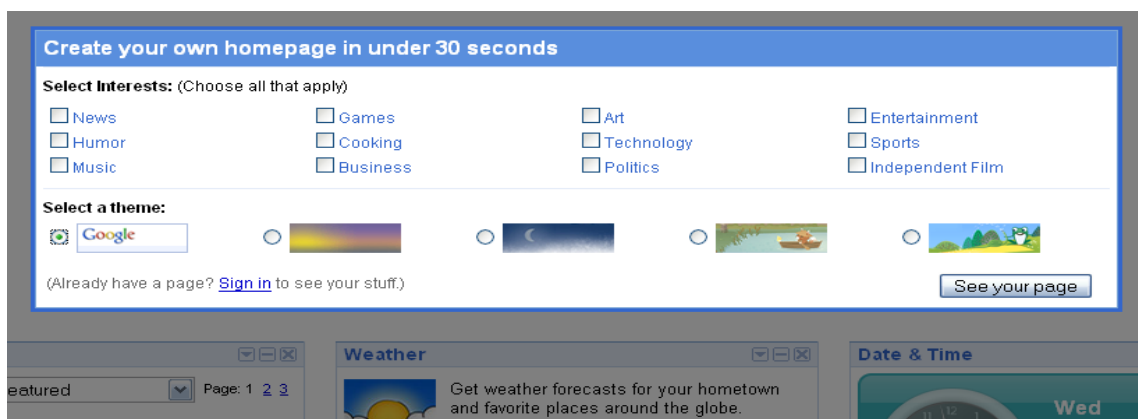


... a personalized homepage, built on RSS
(Really Simple Syndication)

From Google: Google offers the ability to create a personalized iGoogle page that gives you *at-a-glance access* to key information from Google and across the web via RSS subscriptions. On this self-designed page, you can choose and organize content such as:

- Blog and Wiki updates
- Podcast subscriptions
- Google Calendar & agenda
- Google Docs updates
- News headlines from a variety of top news sources
- Weather forecasts, stock quotes, movie showtimes
- Delicious Bookmarks for quick access to your favorite sites from any computer
- Your own section with content you find from across the web

Visit www.google.com, and click the **iGoogle** link at the top right. You should sign in with the same Google account you use for Google Calendar/Docs. The first time you sign in, you might see a screen with a welcome box like the one below. You can add some generic Google content now if you wish, by selecting options of interest, then clicking "See your page." Be sure you're signed in first. You can look at the top right of your google page, and if it says "Sign OUT," then you're signed in!



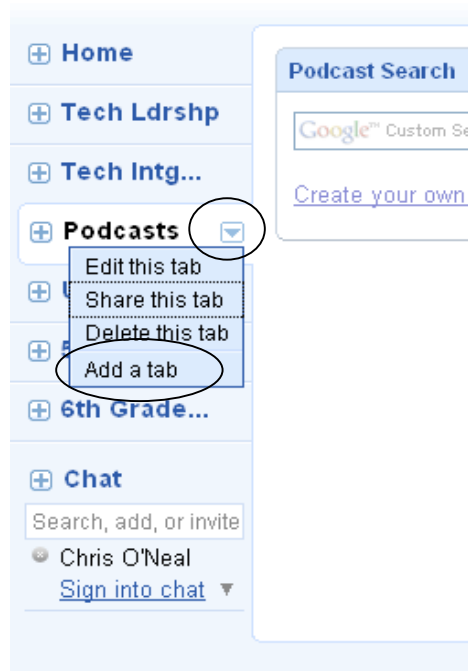
Next, you'll see a sample page that Google has set up for you. It contains various "gadgets" to get you started. Each gadget is represented by a movable box. The Weather gadget in the center of the screenshot below can be moved by clicking the colored, horizontal bar next to the word Weather and dragging the box to a new location. The gadget can be removed from your page by clicking the X for that gadget. Each module can also be customized by clicking the drop-down arrow, and choosing Edit Settings.

Now it's time to customize the information gadgets that are pulled into this page from outside sources.

1. Click the Add stuff>> link on the right side of the page.
2. You'll be presented with a list of "gadgets" that you can add to your new page. Browse around, and add as many as you like. It's easy to organize and straighten things up a bit later if your page gets overcrowded. For now, add as much as you like just to get the feel for what gadgets are available.
3. To go back and see what your page looks like with your newly added gadgets, click the "Back to iGoogle home" at the top left.

The screenshot shows the iGoogle homepage with the following elements:

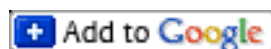
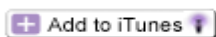
- Google Search Bar:** At the top, with the iGoogle logo and search buttons.
- Navigation Bar:** Below the search bar, with tabs for Art, Independent Film, and Add a tab. On the right, there are links for Select theme and Add stuff (circled).
- Gadgets:**
 - Weather:** A gadget showing weather forecasts for a hometown and favorite places. It has a title bar with a drop-down arrow and a close button (X).
 - Date & Time:** A gadget showing a clock, the current date (Wed DEC 19), and a calendar.
 - Top Stories:** A gadget showing news headlines from the Wall Street Journal and Voice of America.
 - Movies:** A gadget showing movie showtimes for 94043, including I Am Legend, The Golden Compass, and Alvin and the Chipmunks.
 - How to of the Day:** A gadget showing daily tips, such as "How to Make a Soda Bottle Candy Dish" and "How to Draw Escher's Impossible Cube".
 - YouTube Videos:** A gadget showing recently featured videos.



Once you've added lots of gadgets, you'll notice things start to get a little crowded and unruly. iGoogle lets you sort gadgets by topic, separating them into "tabs" along the left side of the screen. You can create a new tab by clicking the Add a tab link, which appears in the drop-down arrow from one your tab titles on the left. You might want a tab called "Integration" with blogs about tech integration for your content area, or a tab with podcasts about your hobbies. Perhaps you want one called "politics." Fill each new tab with relevant gadgets in the same way you set up your initial page.

iGoogle adds prebuilt content gadgets based on popularity, to make it quick and easy for you to get a page set up. However, some sources of information you want might not be in Google's default directory. This next section explains how to manually add new content from RSS feeds, news sources, etc.

To add outside content, you need the web address for the RSS feed from which your information will come. As you browse web pages, you may notice icons that look like the ones below. If you see a website that offers RSS feeds, identified by an icon like the ones below, then you can "subscribe" to that site and have it automatically feed into your iGoogle page. iGoogle gadgets typically refresh once a minute or so. That way, there's no need to go out to that site to see if there's any new content. Instead, it'll come to you via RSS (Really Simple Syndication).



Once you've found a site that offers RSS feeds, you need to copy the URL for the RSS feed. Let's go to the Dubai School of Government homepage at <http://www.dsg.ae> to get started. Let's say you want to subscribe to *just* the Upcoming Events section of the site. First, we need to find the RSS section of this website, typically identified by one of the RSS icons in the previous set of images, or just by a text RSS link. In this case, the RSS Feeds section is located under the News and Events link.

1. Click that RSS link, and you are presented with the school's list of available RSS feeds.
2. Scroll down to the RSS logo icons.
3. Copy the URL of the RSS feed you want (you can right-click, and choose "Copy Shortcut" usually).
4. In this case, the URL is quite lengthy:
<http://www.dsg.ae/NEWSANDEVENTS/UpcomingEvents/tabid/98/moduleid/774/language/en-US/RSS.aspx>
5. Return to your iGoogle homepage (select the tab/section where you want this placed) and click the Add Stuff link
6. At the bottom left of the page, you should see an RSS icon, with a link that says Add Feed or Gadget. Click the link.



7. Paste in the RSS web address you just copied, then click Add.
8. The gadget has now been added to whichever Tab you were in when you last visited your Google homepage.

Share! You can share a whole tab on your page, or even individual gadgets, with your friends, parents, coworkers.
Finally, choose "Select Theme" to do some final tweaking.

Practice Adding RSS Feeds (optional)



One Method for Adding RSS Feeds/Gadgets:

1. Make a Tab called Educational Blogs
2. On the far right, click 'Add Stuff'
3. On the bottom left, click 'Add Feed or Gadget' to manually add the RSS feeds below.
 - <http://www.edutopia.org/blog/feed>
 - <http://www.howstuffworks.com/rss-feeds.htm>
 - <http://davidwarlick.com/2cents/?feed=rss2>

One MORE Method for Adding RSS Feeds/Gadgets:

1. Be sure you're in your Educational Blogs tab.
2. In a completely separate Internet Explorer window, visit this site:
<http://coolcatteacher.blogspot.com>
3. In the left menu, click the little, orange RSS logo or the link called "Subscribe to this Blog."
4. On the page that next appears, click 'subscribe now' beneath the built-in Google RSS-Add link at the top of the page.
5. You'll see a screen like the one below. Click 'Add to Google Homepage'
6. This is a nice, automated feature that some blogs have built in!

